

JULY, 1950.

NEWS LETTER No 2.

Hon. Secs. Notes.

At a meeting of the Committee held on 23rd June future programme and policy were thrashed out. Bill Lloyd who is now an "independent" protested strongly about the purely "lecture" character which the programme seemed to be taking and the result was the two consecutive Tuesdays allotted to the rehashing of G3GIZ and associated gear. For the benefit of those who did not attend on the 27th June the future arrangements so far are:-

July 4th Mr. Stan Dutton will talk on "Amateur Operating Procedure."

July 11th & 18th. Work on the station and associated gear.

(Please dont hang back as there will be plenty to do for all.)

July 25th. Mr. Myatt will discuss "Some Unusual War-time Circuits" as far as his vows of secrecy will allow.

Beyond this point the programme is in a state of flux and the soldering will fall upon the frantic head of the Hon. Sec. as usual. However, we can at least reveal the proposed ingredients. They include G2ANV of Wirral on his VFO, Howell Morris on Modulators, an R.S.G.B. representative on the aims of that body, G3GMT on his Falklands career, Visit to telephone exchange and exchange Brains trust with the Wirral Society.

Two items outside the usual Tuesday schedule include the picnic on 30th July by courtesy of our vice-chairman Stan Dutton, at Dutton's Nurseries. The idea is to make it a family affair. You bring sufficient food for your party and it is pooled with the rest. Games, swings, fathers race are all in the wind. The event is automatically OFF if the weather is bad.

On July 14th local "Hams" are open for station visits when the interested may see and hear actual contacts with their fellow members. Arrangements should be made individually with the Chairman, Howell Morris & Co. as the capacity of shaks is limited if the key is to be allowed sufficient travel.

On conclusion may we appeal for contributions of a technical and general interest as editors Elphick and Rickers are eager to make this rag appear frequently; a wish which does them great credit as they are in a sense cutting a rod for their own devoted backs.

OPERATING NEWS SECTION.

In the last newsletter you were promised some hints on "Keeping a Log" and DX-ing.

KEEPING A LOG.

In the club there must be few listeners who do not keep, or have not kept, a log of stations they hear on the air, whether it is a real "Puldnah" job, or a small note book kept by the receiver for making note of any contacts heard.

Obviously, if it is to be of any use the log must contain at least a certain minimum of information about the stations heard. The

writer recalls that when he first kept a log about four years ago, it was an extremely untidy affair, and consisted of the following:-

Date. Time(GMT). Call Revd. Band. Report(QSA/R). QRM. QRN. Notes.

Of course, at the time, this was considered to be ideal, as the writer's listening was confined to a few short periods on twenty and a Sunday on forty. (verb.sap.)

Soon I began to realise that this was not good enough for logging DX, since it pays to keep a full report of these elusive stations; so this materialised:-

Date. Time. Band. Call Revd. Location(QTH). RST. Emission. QSB. QRM. Notes on Tnsmsn. Conditions. Stn.worked. Stn.called. Antenna. Zone. QSL. Notes.

The log covers the two faces of a note book 7" across, and each section is ruled off. I prefer to put the date in full over the entry, but this is a matter of choice. If you do this, however, you will find it better to rearrange the first line to:-

Band (or exact freq.). Call Revd. QTH. Time. Rst. etc.

Try to avoid using QSA/R and use the RST code which is far more up to date. In the section headed emission you signify whether the station was on 'phone or Cw. -- A1 = CW., A2 = MCW., A3 = 'phone. When signifying QSB use the following notation:- F = Slight QSB., FF = Bad., FFF = Complete fade-out. SS = Very slow QSB (>10 mins.) S = Slow (over 10 secs.), R = Rapid., RR = Flutter. For QRM:- X = Slight., XX = Heavy., XXX = Blot-out. When noting condx put down details of skip or any other peculiarities of reception that you may notice.

Well, I think, (and sincerely hope) that I have satisfied the needs of the log, and perhaps it is here that I should suggest that you make up your own log book, if you have the time, because for one thing, the commercial logs never seem to contain all that you want, and in any case, you will take far more pride in your home-made log than any other.

DX-ing or HOW to get a hangover.

Ever since the early days of Man, men have, (and so some say, have women) striven to do the nearly impossible, and it is this spirit that is the essence of DX-ing. A recent Editorial in QST urged the amateur to get as much out of his hobby as he possibly could, and that publication is starting a series of articles on the subject in the July issue.

The definitions one hears of DX are usually extremely vague, so I am going to describe it as a combination of the rare with the distant. Usually you associate the rare with the distant, but this is not so with DX. For instance, take three well known Dx. stations, VQ1CUR, (H1), MF2AA and GD3UB. For those who do not speak in the terms of VQ, MF and GD, let me explain that these are in, respectively, Zanzibar, Free territory of Trieste and the "Sunny Isle of Man" (where bacon and eggs cost 2/6d. at GD3UB.). All these countries are "rare" but we would never dream of calling "Uncle Bob" DX. On 20m. MF2AA is not DX, but both are DX to the Ws. VQ1CUR is DX in any language, but what about Kenya-VQ4, or any adjacent countries?

To give another illustration, Tangier - EK is not DX on 20m., but if an EK appears on 160m., then someone works him and acclaims it quite justifiably as good DX.

It is often not easy to hear a DX station, never mind, work him, as it is the common practice of the unscrupulous to call a DX station on his frequency, and so all you hear is a loud wailing noise. If he is not crystal controlled the victim will usually "crawl" from under the pack and reappear a few Kcs. away, where you will probably catch him.

It is necessary if you want to receive a particular place to listen at the correct time when skip will allow you to hear the stn. (or the XYL).

I will continue with some more practical hints next time.

"CQ - DX" D.Rickers.

At the writer's station, the recent spate of activity, caused by the incursion of examinations, ceased abruptly on June 24th when a remarkable "DX session" started. As early as 1800 GMT, VS7BR, the old faithful, came in at S⁵ from Ceylon, and your scribe was on 14 Mc promptly looking for HS1SS who has been received by P.J.White.

TA3FAS has been heard on 20 every night on CW devouring Gs and Ws by the dozen. The present operator is W5HBQ, who is, by the way, am RSGB member, so direct your QSLs via the bureau. If anyone wants a card from Rumania, YC1W1 and YO3RF both QSL to SWLs. The YO bureau is PO Box 95 Bucharest. The bureau for YU - Yugo Slavia is not quite clear, but Box 180 Lubljana would appear to be OK.

Yours truly has received cards from VP3MGB, ST2AM, ZL4HP, EA3MTM, VS6BO for 1^{1/2} mcs and GZ2FXA (2w phone), HP1BR on 7 mcs.

Has any, ^{ever} sorted up their score of countries and zones heard? The score here is 40 zones and 156 countries, F9QV / Corsica being received as these notes are written.

Via 2YS we hear that DL4AND managed at last to get a call in Monaco, but I have heard him back in DL4 so . . . Is FM7WF related to pirate FM7WR on Martinique? If so, I reckon he is getting jittery and sending that extra dot!

Heare is a list of calls heard, sent in by P.J.White.
HS1SS (14 mc fone), IS1OY, HL1SO or A, CT4DK, SM5ACC I1LKV (all 14 mc. phone) Now we get EC3ON which I simply cannot translate.

Your scribe's DX includes:-

14 mc fone. AR8AB, BC, W⁴, CS3AA, CT3AK, 3AV, CX2CL, EA8 - AE, AP, AV, AY, VP6SD, VS7BR, XE2GZ, YK1AH, YV5AB, 5BQ.
14mc. CW. CE3MX, CX1BZ, 6AD, F9QV/FO (Corsica), FKS8AG (Fr. Zone Austria)
FM7WF, FM8AD, G2YS, KG6GD, KV4AA, TA3FAS, UA9KC4, UC2KAB, UF6KAF, UG6AB,
UG6WG, UI7AB, UP2KCB, VE8MS, VQ3BNU, VP6CDI, VU2RX, VS6AC, YV5AE.

CS3AA and FM7WF are suspect.

Well, that's all for this month, 73 es IX GUL.

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THE OPPOSITION REPLIES! A word from Prof. Bryerleigh Voidt-Barlow.

No one could quarrel with Dr. Rickers definition of Amateur Radio and a radio amateur "Pur Sang." However, although the good Dr. is guiltless of "suggestio falsi", he begs the question, and may even be convicted of "suppressio veri", in that our charter contains as one of our aims "ASSOC electronics" and hence a member is not bound to be a radio amateur any more than the Dr. is expected to have a working knowledge of member Parsonage's electronic motor racing timer which distinguished itself under heavy rainfall at Queensferry last Saturday but one or so.

By all means let us have our specialists (and in this connection let me point out that the Parsonage lab. also includes DX gear) but we set our face against any attempt to let one set of specialists cramp our

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activities into one band, be it 30 - 15,000 c.p.s. or as many megacycles. The history of science is full of examples of fruitful borrowing of techniques from one branch by another and unless our hobby is to become as sterile as collecting railway engine numbers, we would do well to be more liberal than some of the writers whose letters grace the correspondence columns.

For a more scathing indictment of the DX fanatic, see the January, 1950 address by the R.S.G.B. president from which I quote "much more could be achieved if the amateur could shake off the feverish thirst for DX, which in its most sinister form can transform him into a scarcely human animal etc."

" - - - collecting with a miserly hand the postcards with which he demonstrates how badly the disease affects him."

(If you doubt the authenticity of this see R.S.G.B. Bulletin for February, 1950 - "The Amateur Horizon".)

Personally, I think this somewhat harsh, but there are cases where it is deserved, and they are not rare - anyway the President said it and his words must carry weight.

H. B. V-B.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Oh! Mr. Swinnerton, Sir,

Please will you talk to my Lennie about this D.X. fever he says he has . He is going off his food Mr. S. and spends all his pocket money on 807s, 73s and all that and Im frightened for the boy. Could'nt you get him interested in something quite like motor bikes like Chris up the road, or even girls and beer.

Yours frantically,
Distracted Mother - Christleton.

Please enter any complaints in the space below, tear off and throw away.
